

Message Text

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ACTION EB-06

INFO OCT-01 NEA-06 ISO-00 AGR-05 IGA-01 COME-00 SP-02

AID-05 NSC-05 RSC-01 CIEP-01 TRSE-00 SS-15 STR-01

OMB-01 CEA-01 L-02 H-01 CIAE-00 INR-05 NSAE-00 SWF-01

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FM AMEMBASSY AMMAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2997

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

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DEPARTMENT PASS AID

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAID, JO, US

SUBJ: PL-480 WHEAT FOR JORDAN

REF: STATE 245932

1. APPRECIATE INFORMATION PROVIDED REFTEL. WE RECOGNIZE CONSTRAINTS IN WASHINGTON, HOWEVER, IN ORDER TO MAKE CERTAIN WE UNDERSTAND COMPLETELY, WE WOULD APPRECIATE ADDITIONAL CLARIFICATION.

2. SINCE WE HAVE NEGOTIATED SEVDRA PL-480 AGREEMENTS WITH GOJ IN PAST AND GOJ IS FAMILIAR WITH TERMS AND CONDITIONS, WE WOULD NOT ANTICIPATE EXTENDED NEGOTIATIONS. WE ESTIMATE IT WOULD REQUIRE APPROXIMATELY ONE WEEK FOLLOWING EMBASSY RECEIPT OF AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE BEFORE AGREEMENT COULD BE SIGNED. CONSEQUENTLY, IF WE WERE AUTHORIZED TO NEGOTIATE AN AGREEMENT BY "MID-NOVEMBER", WE COULD SIGN IT BEFORE DECEMBER 1. THIS WOULD PERMIT CONTRACTING AND SHIPPING PROCESS TO BEGIN AROUND THAT DATE AND DELIVERY TO AQABA COULD POSSIBLY TAKE

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PLACE BY END OF JANUARY, IF THINGS WENT WELL. IN ADDITION,

SINCE POUCH CAN TAKE UP TO TWO WEEKS, REQUEST TELEGRAPHIC INSTRUCTIONS.

3. WHAT IS NOT CLEAR TO US IS WHETHER AFTER NEGOTIATING AUTHORITY IS GIVEN TO EMBASSY THE PROCESS WILL BE PERMITTED TO PROCEED UNIMPEDED. GOJ WOULD DOUBTLESS INSTRUCT ITS EMBASSY IN WASHINGTON TO PRESS AHEAD AGGRESSIVELY AS SOON AS AGREEMENT WAS SIGNED SINCE MIN. OF SUPPLY WISHES TO HAVE PL-480 WHEAT DELIVERED BY END OF JANUARY, IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, IN ORDER TO AVOID GAP IN SUPPLIES. REFTTEL STATES THAT THERE IS "LITTLE CHANCE OF ACTUAL SHIPMENTS BEING MADE PRIOR TO JANUARY", BUT IT IS NOT CLEAR TO US WHETHER THIS IS WASHINGTON'S ESTIMATE OF PACE AT WHICH NEGOTIATIONS AND SHIPPING WOULD TAKE PLACE OR WHETHER IT IS STATEMENT OF INTENTION BY U.S. DEPT. OF AGRICULTURE TO CONTROL CONTRACTING AND SHIPPING PROCESS. IF IT IS FORMER, WE CAN SIMPLY PLACE BURDEN ON GOJ TO SET ITS OWN PACE ONCE AGREEMENT IS SIGNED. IF IT IS LATTER, IT IS IMPORTANT THAT GOJ UNDERSTAND CLEARLY FROM THE START. THEY WILL OF COURSE FIND THIS STRANGE, GIVEN GENERAL SUPPORT WE HAVE CONTINUED TO GIVE THEM FOR POLITICAL REASONS, AND PARTICULARLY NOW FOLLOWING SECRETARY'S RECENT MEETING WITH KING.

4. WE WOULD ALSO APPRECIATE CLARIFICATION OF ANOTHER ASPECT OF THE PROPOSED AGREEMENT. WE UNDERSTAND AUTHORITY TO NEGOTIATE TITLE I WHEAT AGREEMENT WILL BE DENOMINATED IN DOLLAR AMOUNT RATHER THAN TONNAGE. SINCE WE HAVE BEEN DISCUSSING PROPOSED AGREEMENT IN TERMS OF 20,000 TONS, WE WOULD APPRECIATE KNOWING DOLLAR FIGURE SO WE CAN HELP GOJ ANTICIPATE EFFECT OF PRICE CHANGES ON TONNAGE TO BE SHIPPED. PICKERING

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